

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An appliance door gasket for an appliance including a door shell and a door jamb, the door gasket comprising a formed-in-place magnetic gasket material having at least one free surface for detachably connecting the gasket to one of the door shell and the door jamb, and having at least one secured surface, for permanently connecting the gasket to the other one of the door shell and the door jamb.
2. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket material comprises a mixture of RTV sealant and magnetizable material.
3. The door gasket according to claim 2, wherein the magnetizable material is a ferrite powder.
4. The door gasket according to claim 2, wherein the magnetizable material includes rare earth material.
5. The door gasket according to claim 4, wherein the rare earth material includes neodymium-iron-boron material.
6. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket material is a heat cured elastomer.
7. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket material is a UV cured elastomer.
8. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the at least one free surface comprises a pair of extended sealing lips separated by a gasket well.

9. The door gasket according to claim 8, wherein the sealing lips extend away from the secured surface and away from a plane passing through a center of the gasket perpendicular to the secured surface.

10. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the at least one free surface comprises a pair of extended sealing lips and at least one tongue extending away from the secured surface.

11. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket material is formed through perforations in one of the door shell and the door jamb.

12. The door gasket according to claim 1, wherein at least one magnetic strip is connected to the one of the door jamb and the door shell, and the gasket material is located over the magnetic strip, whereby the magnetic strip transmits a magnetic force through the gasket material to draw together the door shell and the door jamb.

13. An appliance providing a sealed enclosure comprising:
a door shell;
a door jamb;
an interfacing surface positioned on one of the door shell and the door jamb; and
a formed-in-place magnetic gasket material formed on the interfacing surface.

14. The appliance according to claim 13, further comprising a plurality of perforations arranged on the interfacing surface, wherein the formed-in-place gasket material includes a plurality of portions protruding through the plurality of perforations, and whereby the gasket material is anchored by the portions of the gasket material which pass through the plurality of perforations.

15. The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the gasket material is magnetizable material.

16. The appliance according to claim 13, further comprising a magnetic strip connected substantially between the gasket material and the interfacing surface.

17. The appliance according to claim 16, wherein the magnetic strip is positioned on the interfacing surface substantially between the plurality of perforations.

18. The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the door shell is formed integral with a substantially flat panel, and the door jamb defines a placement area for the flat panel.

19. The appliance according to claim 18, wherein the flat panel is glass.

20. The appliance according to claim 13, wherein the door shell is formed integral with a substantially curved panel, and the door jamb defines a placement area for the curved panel.

21. A method of manufacturing formed-in-place gaskets for appliances comprising:

providing one of a door shell and a door jamb;
applying a substantially continuous length of curable gasket material on a surface of the one of the door shell and the door jamb; and
curing the gasket material.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of applying includes applying a pre-magnetized gasket material.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the gasket material is magnetized subsequent to the step of applying.

24. The method according to claim 21, further comprising applying a magnetic strip on the surface of the one of the door shell and the door jamb prior to the step of applying the gasket material, wherein the curable gasket material is applied over a surface of the magnetic strip.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of applying the magnetic strip includes applying the magnetic strip substantially flush with the surface of the one of the door shell and the door jamb.

26. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of applying the gasket material includes applying a gasket material having a substantially uniform cross-section with a pair of extended sealing lips separated by a gasket well.

27. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of providing one of a door shell and a door jamb includes providing the one of the door shell and the door jamb with a plurality of perforations, and wherein the step applying the gasket material includes applying gasket material such that the material protrudes through the plurality of perforations forming an anchor to secure the gasket material.

28. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of applying includes applying a curable gasket material having at least one coloring agent.

29. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of providing includes providing a door shell which is formed integral with a substantially flat panel.

30. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of providing includes providing a door shell formed integral with a substantially non-ferrous panel.

31. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of applying includes applying a self-adhesive curable gasket material compatible with the surface of the one of the door shell and door jamb to substantially permanently adhere the gasket material to the one of the door shell and door jamb.

32. A method of manufacturing a formed-in-place permanent magnet for articles comprising:

providing an article;

applying a substantially continuous length of form-in-place, magnetic, curable gasket material on a surface of the article;

curing the gasket material; and

magnetizing the gasket material.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the step of providing includes providing a non-ferrous article.